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1 August 1966 25X1

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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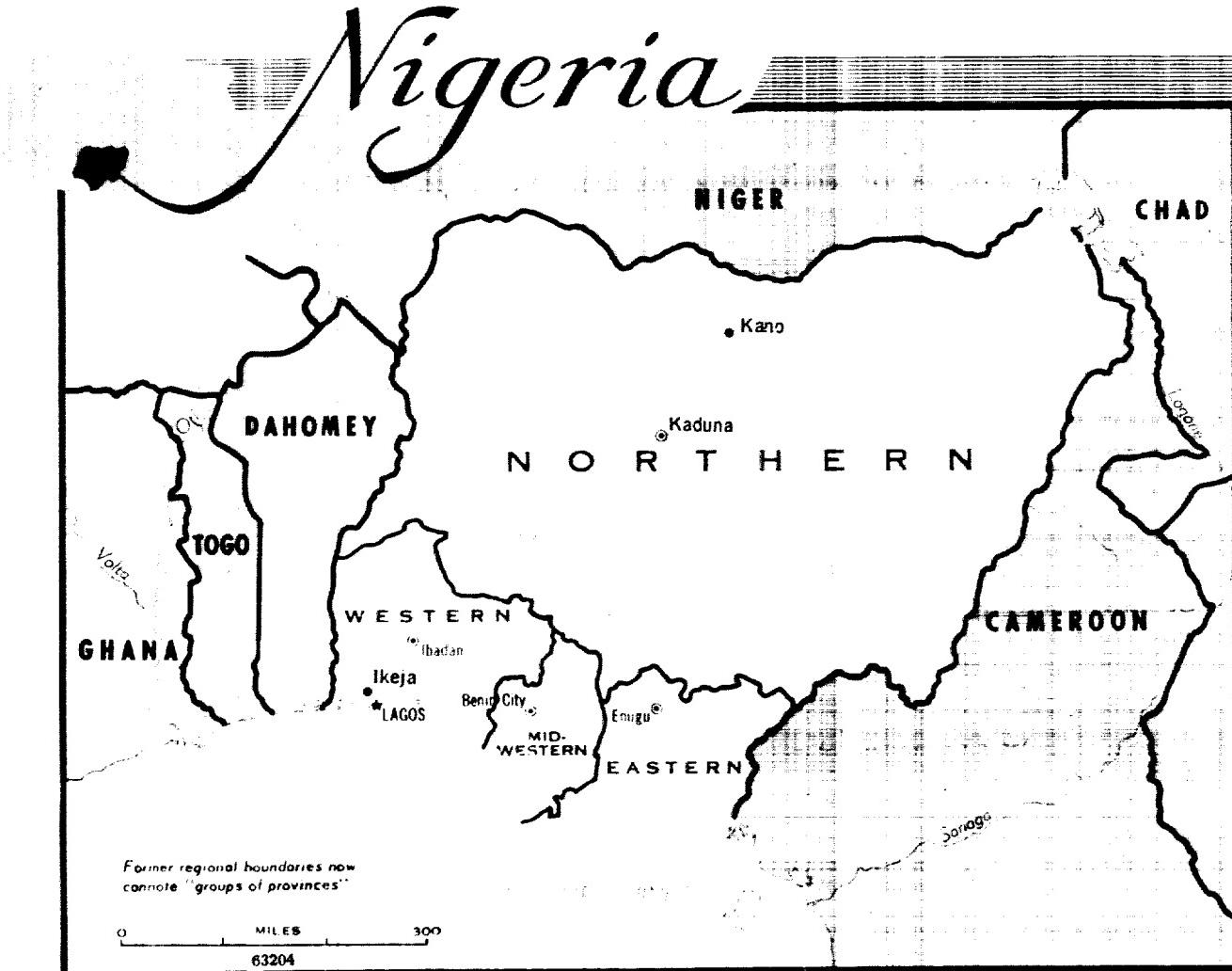
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\*Nigeria: The mutiny of northern army elements may culminate in a take-over by northern Army officers who currently seem bent on bringing about the early secession of their native region.

Northern-led army elements have gained effective control of northern and western Nigeria and are in a strong position to impose their will on the remnants of the military government which missing General Ironsi had headed. These northern elements reportedly are responsive to Lieutenant Colonel Gowon, the Army chief of staff who has evidently been persuaded by fellow northern officers to take over the government as a first move toward northern secession.

Gowon, who is operating from an army camp at Ikeja taken over by dissident troops on 29 July, is said to view the task of unifying Nigeria as an impossible one and to be determined to "go North." He has been in contact with Brigadier Ogundipe, the number two man in the Ironsi regime who evidently has no significant forces at his disposal, regarding announcement of a change of government. British representatives in Nigeria are trying to dissuade Gowon from implementing the northerners' plan to split the country immediately. (see map)

Various negotiations involving leading military and civilian spokesmen for Nigeria's three major tribal groups reportedly have taken place since the evening of 29 July. Some of these had appeared headed toward a revised national government, perhaps including civilians, in which northern Hausas and Yorubas from western Nigeria would predominate. Gowon and other northerners were reported pressing for a loose federation of Nigeria's antagonistic ethnic groups.

Whatever the northerners finally decide to do with their new power, the aggressive Ibos from eastern Nigeria, whom the dissidents feared would

dominate the country under a planned unitary state, are the chief losers from this latest military upheaval. [Some 300 Ibo military personnel, including a number of officers, are estimated to have perished and a systematic removal of surviving Ibo officers appears to be continuing in units under northern control. The northern troops are also trying to get their hands on the young Ibo officers who have been detained in various prisons since last January, after they overthrew Nigeria's northern-dominated constitutional government.]

25X1 No military or political reactions have been reported yet from the eastern provinces, where one battalion of the army is stationed. [Brigadier Ogundipe reportedly has warned Ibo officers that resistance is hopeless.]

25X1 \* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.]

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USSR-Mali: [Moscow may have agreed to provide Mali with some surface-to-air missiles (SAMs).]

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[Soviet SAM launchers consigned to the Malian Army have been shipped to Algeria, where they are awaiting transportation to Mali. This equipment, along with other Soviet military materiel recently delivered, apparently is to be put on display on Mali's national holiday on 22 September. Like Afghanistan, Mali's interest in SAMs probably is based mainly on prestige considerations and after they are paraded, they probably will be stored away for some time while Malians are trained in their use.]

[Following arrangements this spring for the transhipment of the materiel through Algeria, the USSR began delivering to Mali military equipment ordered under an arms agreement concluded last October. The first shipment of ground forces equipment under this agreement was delivered over the old caravan route across the Sahara. The five Soviet AN-12 transports which recently delivered four crated MIG jet fighters to Bamako also were routed through Algiers.]

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Brazil: The outbreak of numerous terrorist incidents during the past week is causing widespread public anxiety in Brazil.

Following the 25 July bombings in Recife that caused three deaths, bombing attempts have been reported in a number of other cities. At least two foreign-owned oil companies--Esso and Shell--have asked for additional police protection for their oil storage facilities. Adding to the uneasiness has been the running conflict between army troops and students in Belo Horizonte, where a national student group under extreme leftist leadership has tried for several days to hold a conference despite a government ban.

The US Embassy reports that there is a public expectancy of further violence, although it is still not known whether the incidents are part of a Communist-inspired campaign to create unrest, or are acts of protest by others against President Castello Branco's regime. [redacted]

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NOTES

France-Cuba: Havana announced on 29 July the signing of a \$35-million contract by Cuban and French trade representatives. A French firm, Richard Continental of Lyon, will supply Cuba with bulldozers, power graders, rollers, and other heavy agricultural and road construction equipment. [The transaction is believed to be backed by a substantial credit guarantee by the French Government.]

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